

IN THE CLAIMS:

In line 1, delete "Patent Claims:" and insert:

C L A I M S

What is claimed is:

Please amend claims 1-19 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant in the urinary bladder characterized in that an active agent with the ability of killing or making germs ineffective is brought into the urinary bladder as an implant using a special active agent carrier~~ A device for preventing and treating urinary bladder infections, comprising an active agent carrier, adapted to be inserted and forming an implant body in the urinary bladder, and an active agent on said carrier having at least one of germicidal properties and properties that render germs ineffective to produce disease.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the active agent consists of~~ comprises particles in a colloidal form, ~~in particular in a relative~~ relatively uniform nano-size, ~~for example nanosilver or another respective substance.~~

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 2, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the active agent is silver in a nano-porous state, which is introduced into the active agent carrier in a concentration of, for example, 0.1 - 2 percent in weight.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 2, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the active agent silver in a nano-dispersive state is introduced into the active agent carrier in a concentration of, for example, 0.01 - 0.1 percent in weight.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in ~~one or both of the claims 3 and 4 characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein the active agent silver is introduced into the active agent carrier in a mixed manner in both the nanoporous and the nanodispersive state in a suitable ratio.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the active agent, ~~e.g., an antiseptic, antibiotic, or another suitable biocide~~ is chemically bound to the active agent carrier as a matrix.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~claims 1 to 6 characterized in that~~ the active agent carrier is, ~~for example,~~ a polymer that is equipped, ~~for example,~~ with shape memory properties or that obtains in the bladder space a shape suitable for the purpose through absorbing liquids, through temperature changes or through another stimulus.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the active agent carrier dissolves, disintegrates or is changed into a different shape by changing the pH-value and/or in the presence of enzymes or another stimulus, such that it can be flushed out through the urethra together with the active agent.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the active agent carrier ~~itself~~ is biodegradable, ~~whereby~~ the duration of the disintegration is being specified in the properties of the active agent carrier and its structure.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 9 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the implant with ~~its elongated shape, e.g., 30 cm long and 4 mm in diameter,~~ is has an elongated shape such that it may be pushed into the bladder space directly or with the use of a catheter or another suitable device through the urethra or suprapubically.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 10, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the elongated active agent carrier is comprised of many individual thin strings.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 11, ~~wherein, characterized in that~~ based on the shape memory properties of the active agent carrier material and the changed temperature, a ball or a wad, ~~for example,~~ is formed in the bladder space that can no longer be flushed out through the bladder outlet.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein one or more of claims 1 to 10 characterized in that~~ the elongated active agent carrier is made of a

foamed material in one piece or in individual shorter pieces, whereby during manufacturing the foam structure is pressed together ~~in a compression process, whereby~~ such that the volume or the cross-section is relatively small ~~in this state prior to insertion in the bladder.~~

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 13, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the compressed active agent carrier foam returns to its previous foam structure in the bladder space due to its shape memory properties and the increased surrounding temperature, ~~that is, it~~ and thereby assumes a relatively large volume.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 14, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the implant body assumes a shape in the bladder space due to its shape memory properties, which on the one hand precludes a flushing out of the implant and on the other hand keeps the bladder outlet permeable to urine.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An implant~~ A device as set forth in claim 13, ~~wherein one or more of claims 13 to 15~~

Please add the following new claim:

20. (New) A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of silver, an antiseptic, an antibiotic and a biocide.